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Kadokawa Comics A

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Story: Jumpei Okada & Yu Hirose (Heart Beat Pictures, Inc.)
Art: Yukiru Sugisaki & Retrograde

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THE SUN,
HUH.

Station. 1

station. 1 ——— 1

Station.2 ——— 57

station. 3 ——— 111

Station.4 ——— 151

STATION. 5 ——— 187

2029. TOKIO

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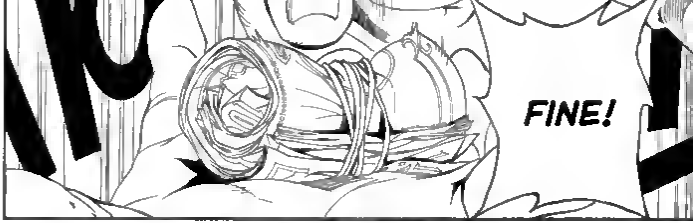
WAHH!
U—
DON'T MAKE THIS HARDER THAN IT NEEDS TO BE

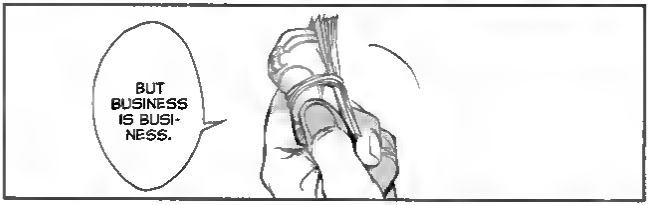
DIDN'T YOUR DAD...
EVER TEACH YOU...
THAT A MAN KEEPS HIS PROMISES?

Y'KNOW, WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
L-LOOK, IF IT'S MONEY YOU'RE AFTER, I TOLD YOU I'D RETURN IT!
HURRY UP AND HAND IT OVER.
550 THOUSAND.
550?!
IDIOT.
SO OF THAT IS MY PAYMENT.
WAIT A MINUTE. WASN'T IT JUST 900-
THAT'S NOT FAIR, HIBINO!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG GUY TO NEGOTIATE WITH
OK, THEN.
TAKE THIS!
MY JOB IS JUST TO COLLECT THE MONEY.

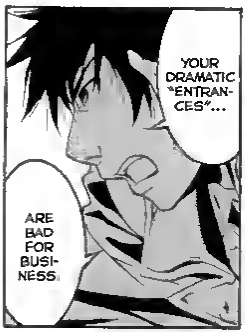
THIS CRAP...
IS WORTH 550 THOU-SAND?
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK...
SOME GUY WHO USED TO BE A MARATHON RUNNER, WHAT, DECADES AGO?
IT WAS A MARATHON RUNNER'S ...
THAT STUFF IS GOOD!
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT IT AMOUNTS TO MUCH.
—!!
TELL YOU WHAT, IF I LET YOU GO NOW, THE GUYS WHO'LL TAKE OVER WILL BE A LOT WORSE.
BUT...
YOU MIGHT END UP HAVING TO SELL YOUR OWN HEART.
I'LL HAVE IT BY NEXT MONTH, PRO MISE!
HOLY ...
C'MON, MAN
SUIT YOUR-SELF.


FINE!

SORRY, MAN


BUT BUSINESS IS BUSI-NESS.

BEEP
BEEP
!
BEEP
IT'S JUST A CIGARETTE. DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP.
BEEP
LUNG
BEEP
AIR POLLUTION, MY ASS.
BEEP
BEEP
WARNING: HARMFUL SUBSTANCE DETECTE IN LUNGS. AIR POLLUTION MOD
BEEP


YOUR DRAMATIC "ENTRANCES"...
ARE BAD FOR BUSINESS.

KYAH!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU,
NAKAJIMA?

THE GROUND UNDERCOVERS HAVE ALL UP AND LEFT.
AND...
THE STATE POWERS AREN'T DOING ANY-THING.
LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE HIGHER UP IS IN-VOLVED.
I AL-READY GOT ENOUGH NASTY STARES JUST FOR BEING A FORMER COP
IT'S A PAIN IN THE ASS FOR ME.
BEING SEEN TALK-ING TO YOU IN A POLICE CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY...
IS ONLY GOING TO MOVE ME UP THE HATE LIST.

PAYMENT FOR YOUR SERVICES LAST TIME.
AS THE SAYING GOES, GOT-TA FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.
BETTER THAN BEING A NO-NAME WHO DOES ALL THE DIRTY WORK.
ARE YOU COPING? I HEAR IT'S HARDER TO MANAGE A BUDGET NOW.
FIRE? I'M NO FIRE.

POLICE
THIS IS A REPORT OF AN ATTACK IN UPPER SOUTH TOKYO.
THE ONLY CASUALTY WAS COLONEL YOSHITO YOMO...
OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES
IN DISTRICT 311 OF SOUTH TOKYO.
DAMN!
IT IS CURRENTLY UNKNOWN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY WOUNDED.
THE ATTACK OCCURED IN THE VICINITY OF THE VICTIM'S HOME...
I'M GOING TO HEAD THERE STRAIGHT AWAY. YOU?
THAT'S JUST PERFECT.
YOU CAN DROP ME OFF ON YOUR WAY THERE.

GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE...
IS IT THAT TROOP ISSUE IN SOUTH NIGER?
YES.
RECENTLY, THOSE OPPOSED TO DEPLOYING TROOPS HAVE BEEN MESSING WITH THE MILITARY.
AND IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE FINALLY STARTED TARGETING ITS LEADERS.
STUCK BETWEEN PLEASING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND OUR OWN PEOPLE...
FOR A SLOW-ACTING MILITARY, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME
NO, IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS TIME
A BUNCH OF PEOPLE FROM THE RADICAL GROUP IN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES' UPPER ECHELON...
ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO SEND TROOPS OUT— MUST BE NUTS
IF I RECALL —

IS THERE A REASON ..
WHY THEY'D WANT TO JOIN AMERICA'S KILLING SPREE?
...THIS COLONEL YOMO GUY..
WAS AT THE CENTER OF IT.
THEY'RE AFTER A SHARE OF THE SPOILS
YEAH, IT'S A ROCK THAT CONTAINS OIL
OIL SHALE?
SOUTH NIGER HAS PLENTY OF UNTAPPED OIL SHALE RESERVES

WHAT AMERICA REALLY WANTS IS PROBABLY TO CUT OFF TIES WITH THE PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES.
SEEING AS THEY NEVER LEARN.

SO IN THE END,
ALL THEY'RE AFTER IS THE OIL?

IT SURE IS IRRES-PONSIBLE OF THEM.
HAH

THEY USED THEIR MONEY AND POWER TO INFLUENCE THE SOUTH NIGER GOVERNMENT.
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SO LUCKY THOUGH.

LEADING ALL OF THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERILLA FORCES.
...BUT NOW GENERAL OBODO SHOWS UP,
A GOLDEN EGG THAT RAKES IN FOREIGN CURRENCY —.
IF THEY WERE A HOT BLOODED PEOPLE,
THEY'D BE BRINGING OUT MACHINE GUNS.
BEEP
BEEP
THAT'S WHY THE U.S. IS HAPPILY SENDING OUT TROOPS.
THERE'S NO WAY TO GET IT TO DO AS YOU PLEASE.

THE SOUTH NIGER GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS IT, HUH.
AND, LIKE ALWAYS, INVOLVE JAPAN IN IT.
IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY, THEY ACT AS THE IMPARTIAL OBSER-VER...
HOW CRUDE.
HEY, YOU.
ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE POLICE FORCE?
'CAUSE IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE COMING BACK—

YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANY-ONE.
THIS CITY ISN'T SUITED FOR LIFE AS A COP.

SORRY, BUT THIS IS POLICY.
BEEP
ARE YOU NEW HERE?
YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME SEARCH YOU
WEL-COME, HIBINO.
WE'VE BEEN EXPECT-ING YOU.
LET HIM IN.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

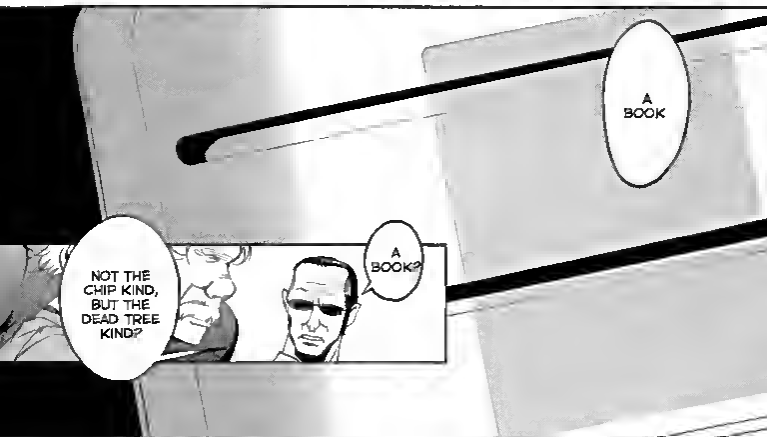
THE GUY HAS MECHANICAL ORGANS.
HE MIGHT BE HIDING A GUN.
.....
IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
I HEAR THEY'RE PRETTY POWERFUL.
DON'T PEOPLE WITH MONEY USUALLY GO FOR *LIVING* OR,
AT THE VERY LEAST, *SEMI-REGENERATING* ONES?
NO, HIS AREN'T THE CHEAP KIND THAT SOMEONE POOR WOULD CLING TO AS THEIR LAST HOPE.
I HEAR THEY'RE EVEN BETTER THAN POOR *RAW* ONES
JUST WHO IS HE?
WHO KNOWS?
AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, HE'S JUST AN EX-COP

500 THOU-SAND.

NO, NO.
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN A CUT FOR MY TROUBLES LIKE USUAL.
I DON'T NEED IT.
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO RETURN THE GOODS.
AND, IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE ANOTHER FROM THE SAME AUTHOR.
TELL HIM I SAID HI.

PRESI-
DENT,
WHAT'S IN THE DURA-LUMIN CASE?
SURE.

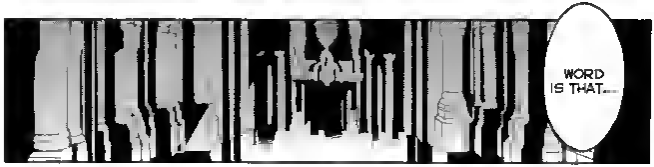
IT CON-
TAINS...
IT'S NOT THAT.
IF IT'S AN IMPOR-
TANT TRADE, THEN WE—


A BOOK
A BOOK?
NOT THE CHIP KIND, BUT THE DEAD TREE KIND?

IT IS SAID THAT HARD COPIES ARE SOLD AT QUITE A PREMIUM PRICE AND ARE HARD TO OBTAIN THESE DAYS
THAT'S RIGHT.
TELL ME,
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE ABE LIBRARY?
IT'S A COLLECTION OF BOOKS LEFT BEHIND BY A WEALTHY MAN...
NAMED JUZO ABE WHO DIED A FEW YEARS AGO...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY LIBRARIAN, PRESIDENT?

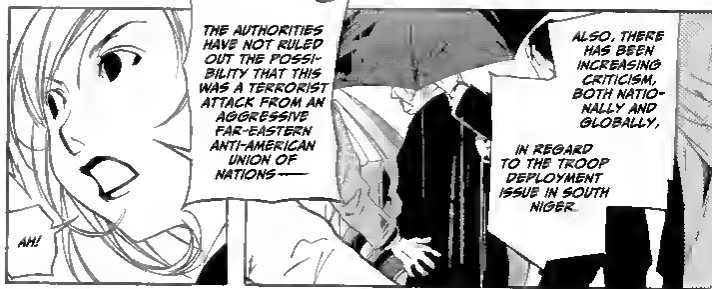
YOU CAN ONLY BORROW BOOKS...
FROM THE LIBRARY...
THROUGH THE LIBRARIAN


WORD IS THAT...

IT'S SOMEONE ABE HAD HIS EYES ON WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

A YOUNG BOY.
!
sigh
BEEP

LIVE
COLONEL ATTACKED!
DURING THE HEINOUS ATTACK,
...REPORTING LIVE FROM THE CRIME SCENE, AN UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD...
HOME TO MANY VIP'S IN MANY FIELDS
THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF ARMED CONFLICT SUCH AS GUNSHOTS
A FEW OF COLONEL YOMO'S BODYGUARDS RUSHED TO THE SCENE,
FORCING THE GROUP OF ATTACKERS TO FLEE.
NOBODY WAS WOUNDED.
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE,


THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS WAS A TERRORIST ATTACK FROM AN AGGRESSIVE FAR-EASTERN ANTI-AMERICAN UNION OF NATIONS——
AH!
ALSO, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING CRITICISM, BOTH NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY,
IN REGARD TO THE TROOP DEPLOYMENT ISSUE IN SOUTH NIGER.

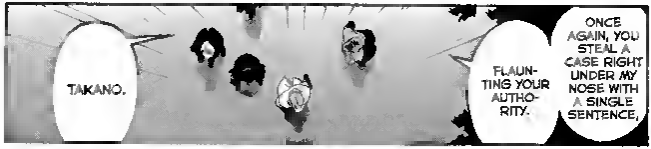
COLONEL, IF YOU COULD PLEASE SAY A FEW WORDS..
COLONEL!!!

STEP BACK!

ブオン

WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE HERE?

TAKE OVER?
NAKA-JIMA.
THE PUBLIC WELFARE UNIT IS TAKING OVER THE CASE.
HMPH.


TAKANO.
FLAUN-TING YOUR AUTHO-RITY.
ONCE AGAIN, YOU STEAL A CASE RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE WITH A SINGLE SENTENCE.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO YOUR SARCASM.
SORRY.

TAKE CARE NOT TO GET MUD ON YOUR BEST CLOTHES NOW.
ザッ
KEEP OUT
WELL, THE SOUTH NIGER GOVERNMENT HAS A HISTORY OF KEEPING THEIR CITIZENS UNDER THEIR THUMB AND MONOPOLIZING THE MONEY MADE FROM OIL.
I BELIEVE THAT THE UPRISING THAT OCCURED HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING.
BUT NOW YOU COULD SAY THEY'VE FALLEN INTO THREE TIMES THE TROUBLE.

THE ENDLESS INTERNAL STRIFE, THE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE THE LARGE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR..
CAUSED BY THE UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
THE MOST SERIOUS ISSUE IS... THE SECOND SPREAD OF THE EBOLA HEMORRHAGIC FEVER.

THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVER 200 DEATHS, HAVEN'T THERE?
YES
IT'S MULTIPLE TIMES MORE DEADLY THAN THE PREVIOUS EBOLA EPIDEMIC.

TO THE DISTRESSED CITIZENS THERE,
GENERAL OBODO WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE A SAVIOR.
THAT'S IRRATIONAL.
OBODO'S FACTION IS AFTER THE OIL SHALE, TOO.

NO, NO, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS—
BEEP

SQUEAK

BEEP

ガチャ
老人と
The Old Man and

IT WOS
an OLD
MAN...
WHO
FISHED
alone in
a SKIFF...

...in the Gulf Stream.
And he had gone eighty-four days now.
without taking a fish.
In the first forty days a boy had been with him.
But after forty days without a fish,
the boy's parents told him that the old man was now...

TOMOR ROW...
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD BUY A TERMINAL OF THE LOTTERY WITH AN EIGHTY FIVE?
D-DOC-TOR...
SORRY, I GOT IN THE WAY OF YOUR "EMPATHIZING" SESSION
IS THE EIGHTY FIFTH DAY
NOT AT ALL
I HAD JUST STAR-TED.

DOWN THERE ...
IT WAS WORTH CONVINCING THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE TO INSTALL A SKY-LIGHT.
I KNEW LIGHT WOULD MAKE A DIFFE-RENCE.
IN MY LIFE?
TO HAVE THE SUN IN YOUR LIFE.
IT MUST BE NICE...
ALL THE RAYS THAT CAN HARM YOUR BODY...
AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE
BASK IN THIS SUN-LIGHT...
HAVE BEEN FILTERED OUT.
AH, YES, IN ONE'S LIFE.

I WONDER HOW FAR YOU'VE READ.
UP TO G BLOCK'S Y SHELF.
GOOD PROG-RESS.
AND ERNEST HEMING-W_Y'S...
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA.
WHAT KIND OF ADVEN-TURES WILL YOU HAVE?

I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR ABOUT THEM,
YURI.
THIS IS A RADIATION FORECAST FROM THE JAPAN METEORO-LOGICAL AGENCY
TOMORROW'S RADIATION LEVELS FOR SOUTH TOKYO IS A SLIGHTLY STRONG RANGE OF 400-500 MILLISIE-VERTS*.
THERE IS CONCERN THAT THIS MAY CAUSE A DECREASE IN PHERIPHE-RAL BLOOD LYMPHOCYTE LEVELS
PLEASE TAKE CAU-TION

* 0-250 MILLISIEVERTS: NO EFFECT
250-1000 MILLISIEVERTS: MILD TO SEVERE NAUSEA; LOSS OF APPETITE; INFECTION; SEVERE BONE MARROW, LYMPH NODE, SPLEEN DAMAGE; RECOVERY PROBABLE; NOT ASSURED
>1000 MILLISIEVERTS: INCAPACITATION; DEATH

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THE DOORS ARE CLOSING.

EEEE
EEEK!!!
EEE—

ATTACKERS NOT YET FOUND
JGSDF SUGGESTS PRESS RESTRICTION
SELF-DEFENSE FORCES ATTACKED! THE LEADERS, IN PARTICULAR
ナゼ?

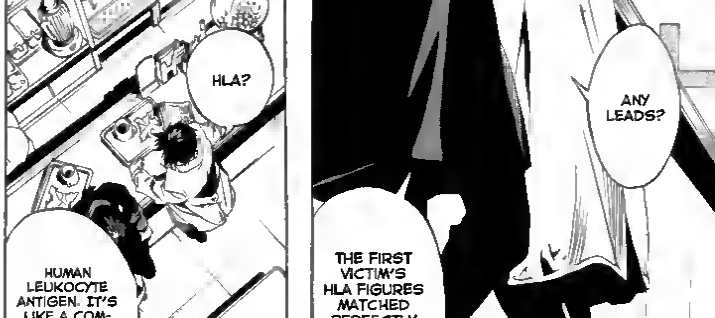
OH!
ISN'T THAT YOU IN THE PICTURE?
KEEP

I DON'T HAVE A PEN RIGHT NOW.
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
.....
IT GOT TAKEN BY PUBLIC WELFARE.
WHAT PUT A DAMPER ON YOUR MOOD?
ISN'T THIS ONE OF THOSE LARGE CASES YOU LIKE SO MUCH?

SERIAL THEFT OF BONE MARROW A SUBWAY TRAGEDY

A VAMPIRE AT WORK?

THEY WERE ALL KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS AND HAD THEIR BONE MARROW EXTRACTED AND STOLEN
THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR VICTIMS.
SIR!
AH. BUT...
IT BET IT WAS A DEALER IN THOSE PARTS.
THE CROOK HAS GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO JUST STEAL THE BONE MARROW,
LEAVING THE VICTIMS ALIVE.
S-SORRY.
THIS IS A NON-SMOKING AREA.
IT SEEMS LIKE A STRANGE WAY FOR A DEALER TO DO IT
THAT'S TRUE.


HLA?
HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ANTIGEN. IT'S LIKE A COMPATIBILITY RATIO WHEN TRANSPLANTING ORGANS.
ANY LEADS?
THE FIRST VICTIM'S HLA FIGURES MATCHED PERFECTLY WITH THE FOURTH VICTIM'S.

THAT'S ALL.
TEN OR SO NEEDLE MARKS LEFT ON THE VICTIM'S WAIST REGION.
ANY-THING ELSE?

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A TABLOID WITH BAD TASTE.
THAT'S A CORNY HEADLINE FOR A NEWS-PAPER.
A "VAMPIRE", HUH?
SO...

HAVE YOU ALREADY BOUGHT SOME GARLIC AND A CROSS?
BY THE WAY,
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BUYS THE DRACULA GOODS,
HIBINO.

huff
huff
huff
BLOOD
...
I NEED
MORE...
BLOOD
...

HELP WANTED

The fabulous Kingdom of Iskultrip Scans is in need of more servants fitting to serve le King! We are calling for ***TRANSLATORS***, ***EDITORS***, and ***SCANNERS*** from all walks of life! Due to certain circumstances, those who are experts in their crafts are heeded to apply!

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